Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 03037 061303Z

51
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 EUR-25 AID-20

DRC-01 /174 W
---------- 035871
R 052028Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5366
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3037

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, UY, XR
SUBJ: THE HARDENING LINE AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS--
NOW A REGIONAL APPROACH?

REF: MVD 2944 (NOTAL)

CINCSO FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: RECENT EVENTS IN ARGENTINA AND CHILE HAVE ENCOURAGED URUGUAY TO TAKE AN INCREASINGLY HARDER LINE TOWARDS THE COMMUNISTS ON BOTH THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SCENES. URUGUAYANS, WHO HAD FELT SOMEWHAT ISOLATED IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO COUNTER COMMUNIST PRESSURE, NOW APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE IN THE MAINSTREAM OF EVENTS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE RESULT WILL BE NOT ONLY MORE RIGID ANTI-MARXISM ON THE PART OF THE GOU BUT ALSO AN ATTEMPT AT ACHIEVING A COORDINATED REGIONAL APPROACH TO THE
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PAGE 02 MONTEV 03037 061303Z

"COMMUNIST PROBLEM".

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

2. IN RECENT YEARS URUGUAY HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO COPE WITH INCREASING INFLUENCE OF THE COMMUNISTS AND OTHER RADICAL LEFTITS WHICH INCLUDED VIRTUAL COMMUNIST CONTROL OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT. FINALLY, FACED WITH AN OFFENSIVE OF TERRORIST VIOLENCE AND A COURT SYSTEM THAT DARED NOT DEAL WITH URBAN GUERRILLAS,

THE GOU, IN SPETEMBER 1971, UNLEASHED ITS ARMED FORCES. THIS ACT LED TO INCREASED MILITARY INFLUENCE AND TO A WEAKENING OF THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. HOWEVER, SINCE JUNE, CIVILIAN-MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS HAVE STABLISZED TO A DEGREE AND A BEGINNING MADE TO COPE WITH NATIONAL PROGLEMS. WHAT MIGHT APPEAR TO OUTSIDERS TO BE REPRESSIVE MEASURES HAVE EEN IN MANY URUGUAYAN EYES ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL EXCESSES SUCH AS: 1) A LABOR MOVEMENT WHICH CALLED SO MANY STRIKES THAT WORKERS LITERALLY DID NOT GET A FULL PAY CHECK FOR YEARS AND IRREPARABLE DAMAGE WAS DONE TO THE ECONOMY; 2) A UNIVERSITY FROM WHICH VIRTAULLY ALL BUT MARXISTS PROFESSORS HAD BEEN REMOVED AND IN WHICH CLASSROOMS HAD BECOME MARXIST TRAINING GOUNDS; AND 3) A SCHOOL SYSTEM CHARACTERIZED BY RIOTS, POLITICAL ASSEMBLIES AND TURBULENCE. EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THESE EXCESSES HAVE WON POPULAR ACCEPTANCE AS INDICATED BY OUR CONTACTS, MONTHLY GALLUP POLLS AND THE RECEPTON GRANTED THE PRESIDENT IN PUBLIC APPEARANCES. THE FEELING AMONG THE GENERAL PUBLIC APPEARS TO BE ONE OF ACCEPTING WITHRESIGNATION MEASURES WHICH IT AGREES SIMPLY HAD TO BE TAKEN.

3. A FEW WEEKS AGO URUGUAYAN ARMY CINC GENERAL CHIAPPE RETURNED FROM THE CARACAS MEETING OF COMMANDERS OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES BITTER OVER THE LACK OF SUPPORT FOR A STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST RESOLUTION. NOT EVEN BRAZIL OR PARAGUAY SEEMED TO HIM TO BE TAKING A STRONG ENOUGH STANCE IN THAT FORUM. URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THE REST OF THE WORLD SIMPLY DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY HAD GONE THROUGH AND WHAT THEY WERE TYRING TO DO. THE PRES ANDOTHER NATIONAL FIGURES REPEATEDLY TOOK PAINS TO EXPLAIN THEIR ACTIONS (MVD A-122, A-127). NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS NO THOROUGHGOING CRACKDOWN ON THE LEFT.

4. DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS DRAMATIC CHANGES TOOK PLACE N CHILE AND ARGENTINA AND THEIR IMPACT HAS BEEN FELT IN URUGUAY. FIRST, THERE WERE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE CHILEAN AND URUGUAYAN MILITARY.
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THEN THE GOU SUSPENDEDOPERATIONS OF A COMMUNIST DAILY AND RADIO STATION AND IS BRINGING THEIR PRINCIPALS BEFORE MILITARY COURTS,

THE FIRST INSTANCE IN WHICH CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS ARE BEING INSTITUTED FOR VIOLATION OF CENSORSHIP DECREES (MVD 2944). IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERED "THE SITUATION RESULTING FROM RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS IN SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES", (MVD 2944) AND THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WAS ADMONSIHED FOR PUBLICA-

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

TION OF AN EMBASSY BULLETIN CRITICIZING THE CHILEANS (MVD 2943) AND WARNED THAT HE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES IF THERE WERE A REPITITION.

5. PRESS RELEASES REPORTED THAT FONMIN BLANCO, WHILE IN THE U.S., HAD EMPHASIZED URUGUAY'S HARDENING POSITION AGAINST MARXIST INFLITRATION IN LATIN AMERICA, ADDING THAT,"..WE WILL MAINTAIN THIS LINE IN ALL INTERNATIONAL FORA."

6. EVENTS IN ARGENTINA AND CHILE HAVE ENCOURAGED URUGUAY TO FOLLOW ITS ANTI-COMMUNIST PREDISPOSITION MUCH MORE OPENLY. IN A SENSE, URUGUAY MOVED FROM SEMI-ISOLATION IDEOLOGICALLY TO BEING ONE OF THE BOYS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE. THE CLUB MIGHT BE CONSIDERED TO INCLUDE BRAZIL, PARAGUAY AND BOLIVIA, IN ADDITION TO CHILE AND ARGENTINA. GIVEN THE CHANGES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, URUGUAY FEELS FREE, PERHAPS COMPELLED, TO TAKE A STRONGER STAND. IT HAD TAKEN A RELATIVELY FIRM LINE BECAUSE OF ITS EXPERIENCE WITH TERRORISM,

ITS IDEOLOGICAL CONVICTION AND THE FACT THAT ITS MILITARY INCLUDES SOME MILITANT ANTI-COMMUNISTS. NOW, HOWEVER, A MUCH HARDER LINE IS BEING PURSUED BECAUSE: 1) THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY LOOKS WITH OPEN APPROVAL AT CHILE'S MOVES AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS; 2) THE GOU IS ASSURED OF INCREASED SUPPORT FROM ITS NEIGHBORS IN THEOAS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA; 3) URUGUAY HAS NO INTENTION OF AGAIN BECOMING THE SOUTHERN CONE'S SAFE-HAVEN FOR COMMUNISTS; AND 4) URUGUAYANS FEEL A CULTURAL AFFINITY TOWARDS CHILE AND ARGENTINA (LESS SO TOWARDS BRAZIL) AND HAVE A NEW SENSE OF THE CORRECTNESS OF THEIR COURSE.

7. WHILE URUGUAY WILL NOT FOLLOW ANY OTHER "MODEL" BLINDLY, IT WILL DRAW ON THE EXPERIENCES OF ITS NEIGHBORS, SOME OF WHOM WILL BE ONLY TOO ANXIOUS TO PROVIDE "GUIDELINES" AND ASSITANCE. WE UNDER-STAND FROM THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY HERE THAT THE NEXT ARGENTINE
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AMBASSADOR TO URUGUAY WILL BE A MILITARY OFFICER. BRAZIL RECENTLY HAS EXTENDED GENEROUS CREDITS TO TH URUGUAYANS FOR MILITARY VEHICLES AND RESCHEDULED DEBTS FOR THE GOU. WITH THE ADVENT OF THE JUNTA IN CHILE, THE URUGUAYAN AIR FORCE SENT SOME SUPPLIES TO CHILE. THERE HAS FOLLOWED A SERIES OF EXCHANGE VISITS BETWEEN THE CHILEAN AND URUGUAYAN MILITARY, WHICH MAY HAVE RESULTED IN AN OFFER TO ASSIST THE GOC IN DEALING WITH URBAN TERRORISM (SANTIAGO'S 4677). ALL-IN-ALL, THE VIEW FROM MONTEVIDEO WOULD SUGGEST NOT ONLY A MORE RIGID ANTI-MARXISM ON THE PART OF THE GOU BUT ALSO AN ATTEMPT AT ACHIEVING A COORDINATED REGIONAL APPROACH TO THE "COMMUNIST PROBLEM".
SIRACUSA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MONTEV03037
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SIRACUSA
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731048/aaaabizc.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MVD 2944 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE HARDENING LINE AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS-- NOW A REGIONAL APPROACH?
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, UY, XR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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